

Among Us Mortals

Making the Kids Happy

By W. E. Hill
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The sob stuff. "How would you like to come and be my little girl—I haven't any little girl—aren't you sorry for poor Miss Nickils? Think of poor Miss Nickils in a big house with no little girl around!" This is Miss Nickils's idea of what children like.



Uncle Will Bobbs is one of those people who know just how to treat children. Make believe you're a child yourself—and all that. Uncle Will is holding an imaginary conversation between two of Ethel's dolls in falsetto with baby talk trimmings. Ethel doesn't know when she has been more ashamed of anything, but this is one of Ethel's good behavior days and she will probably let Uncle Will enjoy himself.



Mr. Wurty is deathly afraid of very small children, and they get on to it as soon as they meet him. Whereupon they proceed to walk all over him—both literally and figuratively—and have a beautiful time. Edna is after a fly which lit on Mr. W.'s bald spot. It is such fun for Edna to use the fly swatter on Mr. Wurty.



"I know somebody who's going to get tickled in a minute!" screams Cousin Frances's Glower from around a corner just when Irwin is deepest in The Sign of the Four. Cousin Frances is under the impression that to please a child of eight or ten it is necessary to scream and poke and rough-house a great deal.

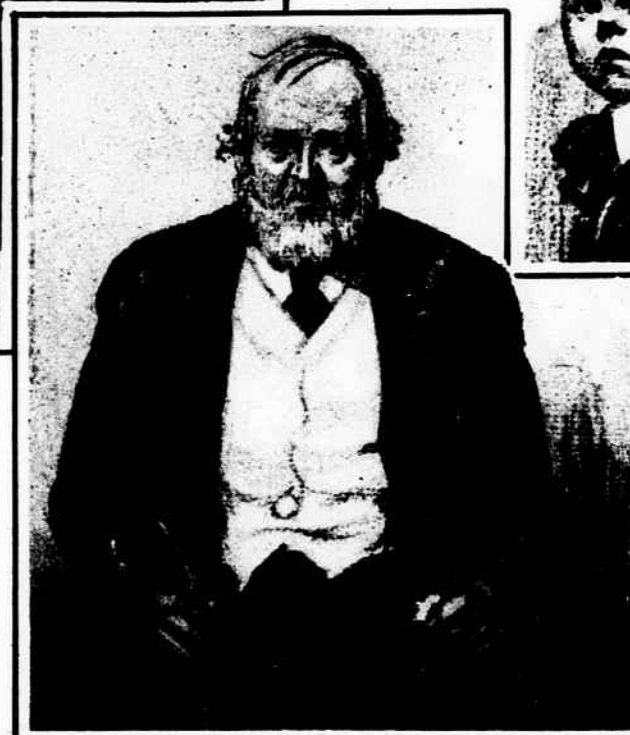


Mr. Ruey is being entertaining and snappy just for the children's benefit. Mr. Ruey hates children, and they know it. "I wonder," begins Mr. Ruey, "if a certain little boy, not so very far off, can tell me the population of the State of Iowa?" Then Mr. Ruey will go on to say how he is sure these little folks must be very, very good little folks, with such a splendid papa and mamma. "I don't believe," Mr. Ruey adds, turning to the children's mother, "these little people ever have an unkind, selfish thought!"

"Oh, Sarah, do look at him now! Why don't you have him wear a bang? Oh, doesn't he look a cherub with his hair like this!" Business of kissing and hugging Harold. The affectionate relative who loves to show Harold how much she loves him. Harold is not so crazy about it.



Right—Second Cousin Zella Clover is giving Madelyn a happy ten minutes. "She doesn't look like her Aunt Margaret a bit. Not so b-r-i-g-h-t. Who do you look like, sweetness? Uncle Tobey? Oh, Madelyn's lost her tongue; I do believe Madelyn's lost her tongue," etc.



Cousin Louise Eldridge is always meeting Sister Etta's boy in the upper hall just when she is on the way to the bath! Louise is terribly upset. It is her opinion that Sister Etta's boy enjoys nothing better than a sight of Cousin Louise in her negligee.

Left—The affectionate relative. Uncle Tobias Glow is one of those champion wet kissers. Loves to be very friendly with the little tots and hold them on his lap and ask what they have learned at Sunday school.

Right—Mrs. Fritch is calling with Baby Fritch on Edgar's mother, and Edgar and Baby Fritch are expected to sit down in the corner and have a perfectly riotous time of it. Baby Fritch wants to kiss Edgar and she is being so cunning saying: "Babe want go kiss kiss. Boy kiss Babe," and Mrs. Fritch and Edgar's mamma think Edgar should be tickled to death and meet Baby F. half way.

